

REMARKS

I. Formalities

Claims 13-42 are in the subject patent application. Applicant adds new claims 13-42 and cancels claims 1, 4, 6, 8, and 11-12 herein.

Applicant adds new claims 13-42 to clarify and better scope what the Applicant considers its invention. New claims 13-42 are supported by the originally-filed specification. Specifically, support for claims 13, 19-20, 26-27, 30-31, 34, 36-38, and 41-42 is found, at least, in paragraphs 0014, 0016-0019, and 0021-0023 and FIGs. 4A and 4B. Support for claims 14-18, 32-33, and 39-40 is found, at least, in paragraph 0022. Claims 21, 28, and 29 are supported, by at least, paragraphs 0016 and 0021. Claims 22-24 are support by at least FIGs. 4A and 4B. Claim 25 is supported by, at least, paragraph 0017. Claim 35 is support by, at least, paragraph 0022 and FIGs. 4A and 4B. Accordingly, no new matter is added herein.

II. Response to the 35 U.S.C. §102 Rejections

The USPTO rejects claims 1, 4, 6, and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly obvious over Hamburger (U.S. Patent No. 6,641,487) in view of Currie et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0193184), Johnson (U.S. Patent No. 5,116,054), Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (the "AAPA") and Chuzo (Japanese Patent Publication No. 02-0688080). Applicant cancels claims 1, 4, 6, and 12 herein. Thus, the rejection of claims 1, 4, 6, and 12 is rendered moot.

Claims 8 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly obvious over Hamburger in view of Currie et al., Johnson, the AAPA, Chuzo, and The Modern Guide to Golf

Clubmaking authored by Jeff Jackson (“Jackson”). Applicant cancels claims 8 and 11 herein.

Thus, the rejection of claims 8 and 11 is rendered moot.

III. Remarks regarding New Claims 13-42

A. Remarks Directed to Independent Claim 13

New independent claim 13 requires “the leg portion forms a predetermined angle with respect to a line substantially perpendicular to the body axis; ... the boss substantially conceals the leg portion when the leg portion forms the predetermined angle and when the club head body is oriented so that the body axis is substantially parallel to a playing surface and viewed from directly above the club head body; and the leg portion is capable of being deformed towards the heel to change the predetermined angle such that the leg portion remains substantially concealed by the boss when the club head body is oriented so that the body axis is substantially parallel to the playing surface and viewed from directly above the club head body.”

None of the cited references, Hamburger, Currie, Johnson, AAPA, Jackson, Chuzo, or any combination thereof, teaches, discloses, or renders obvious a leg portion forming a predetermined angle and a boss substantially concealing the leg portion when the club head body is oriented so that the body axis is substantially parallel to a playing surface and viewed from directly above the club head body. Moreover, none of the cited references or any combination thereof teach, disclose, or render obvious a leg portion capable of being deformed towards the heel to change the predetermined angle such that the leg portion remains substantially concealed by the boss.

The AAPA teaches “leg portion or ‘hosel stem’ 104 extending perpendicular from the body 102” and “when leg portion 104 is rotated the other direction [towards the heel] by any

non-zero angle 302 (i.e., by decreasing or ‘flattening’ lie angle 120), a portion 304 of leg portion 104 is revealed to the golfer.” Column 1, paragraphs 0003 and 0005, respectively.

The Office Action states that Johnson discloses “a putter club head wherein the hosel is bent to hide the leg portion out of view of the user.” Office Action, dated 09/06/2006, page 2, line 20 through page 3, line 1. However, FIG. 7 of Johnson clearly illustrates that a part of the leg portion of hosel 24 is visible when viewed from directly above the putter head 11. Thus, Johnson does not disclose a leg portion forming a predetermined angle with respect to a line substantially perpendicular to the body axis and a boss substantially concealing the leg portion when viewed from above the club head, as required by claim 13.

Accordingly, Applicant submits none of the cited references teach, disclose, or suggest claim 13, and claim 13 is allowable for at least these reasons.

B. Remarks Directed to Claims 14-30

Claims 14-30 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent claim 13. Dependent claims must be construed to include all of the limitations of the claims from which they depend, as required by 37 C.F.R. 1.75(c) and M.P.E.P. 608.01(n). As argued above, none of the cited references, Hamburger, Currie, Johnson, AAPA, Jackson, Chuzo, or any combination thereof teach, disclose, or suggest independent claim 13. Accordingly, Hamburger, Currie, Johnson, AAPA, Jackson, Chuzo, and any combination thereof, do not anticipate or render obvious claims 14-30 for at least the same reasons as listed earlier for claim 13. Accordingly, claims 14-30 should also be allowed for at least those same reasons.

Furthermore, claim 14 requires, in part, the predetermined angle is between approximately one degree and six degrees. None of the cited references, Hamburger, Currie,

Johnson, AAPA, Jackson, Chuzo, or any combination thereof, teach, disclose, or suggest this element.

The Office Action states “one having ordinary skilled in the art would have found it obvious to have the hosel [at] any angle so long as the leg is concealed from the user’s view.” Office Action, dated 09/06/2006, page 3, lines 3-5. As discussed above, none of the cited references, including Johnson, teach, disclose, or suggest a leg portion forming a predetermined angle with respect to a line substantially perpendicular to the body axis and a boss substantially concealing the leg portion when viewed from above the club head. Accordingly, Applicant submits that it is not obvious that the predetermined angle is between approximately one and six degrees, and claim 14 is also allowable for this additional reason.

Similarly, claim 15, in part, requires the predetermined angle is approximately two degrees. As discussed above, none of the cited references, Hamburger, Currie, Johnson, AAPA, Jackson, Chuzo, or any combination thereof, teach, disclose, or suggest any value for the predetermined angle. Accordingly, Applicant submits claim 15 is also allowable for this additional reason.

Claim 20 requires, in part, the leg portion is capable of being deformed towards the heel to change the predetermined angle such that the trailing edge of the leg portion remains substantially concealed by the boss when the club head body is oriented so that the body axis is substantially parallel to a playing surface and viewed from directly above the club head body. As discussed above, none of the cited references, Hamburger, Currie, Johnson, AAPA, Jackson, Chuzo, or any combination thereof, teach, disclose, or suggest the leg portion to be capable of

being deformed towards the heel to change the predetermined angle such that the trailing edge of the leg portion remains substantially concealed by the boss.

The Office Action states that Johnson discloses “a putter club head wherein the hosel is bent to hide the leg portion out of view of the user.” Office Action, dated 09/06/2006, page 2, line 20 through page 3, line 1. However, FIG. 7 of Johnson clearly shows that trailing edge of the leg portion of hosel 24 is visible when viewed from directly above the putter head 11. Accordingly, Applicant submits claim 20 is also allowable for this additional reason.

Claim 26 requires, in part, a shaft coupled to the boss and having a shaft axis, the leg portion defines a first angle with respect to the shaft axis, the first angle is less than one-hundred and eighty degrees and greater than zero degrees, and the leg portion is capable of being deformed towards the heel to change the predetermined angle while the first angle remains constant. None of the cited references, Hamburger, Currie, Johnson, AAPA, Jackson, Chuzo, or any combination thereof, teach, disclose, or suggest this element. As shown in FIG. 16 of Currie, Currie teaches the hosel stem being rotated such that the angle between the hosel stem and the second axis changes. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 26 is also allowable for this additional reason.

Claim 30 requires, in part, the boss conceals all of the leg portion when the leg portion forms the predetermined angle and when the club head body is oriented so that the body axis is substantially parallel to the playing surface and viewed from directly above the club head body, and the leg portion is capable of being deformed towards the heel to change the predetermined angle such that all of the leg portion remains concealed by the boss when the club head body is oriented so that the body axis is substantially parallel to the playing surface and viewed from

directly above the club head body. None of the cited references, Hamburger, Currie, Johnson, AAPA, Jackson, Chuzo, or any combination thereof, teach, disclose, or suggest this element. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 30 is also allowable for this additional reason.

C. Remarks Directed to Claims 31

New independent claim 31 requires, in part, “a hosel stem extending from the putter head at a first angle with respect to the first axis ... the hosel boss blocks viewing of the hosel stem when the putter head is oriented so that the first axis is substantially parallel to a playing surface and viewed from directly above the putter head; ... and the hosel stem is capable of being rotated towards the heel and with respect to the putter head at a region where the hosel stem interfaces with the putter head such that the hosel boss continues to block viewing of the hosel stem when the putter head is oriented so that the first axis is substantially parallel to the playing surface and viewed from directly above the putter head.”

None of the cited references, Hamburger, Currie, Johnson, AAPA, Jackson, Chuzo, or any combination thereof teaches, discloses, or renders obvious a hosel stem extending from the putter head at a first angle with respect to the first axis, and the hosel boss blocking viewing of the hosel stem when the putter head is oriented so that the first axis is substantially parallel to a playing surface and viewed from directly above the putter head. Moreover, none of the cited references or any combination thereof teach, disclose, or render obvious the hosel stem to be capable of being rotated towards the heel and with respect to the putter head at a region where the hosel stem interfaces with the putter head such that the hosel boss continues to block viewing

of the hosel stem when the putter head is oriented so that the first axis is substantially parallel to a playing surface and viewed from directly above the putter head.

The Office Action states that Currie “discloses a fitting method for a custom made putter wherein the hosel is bent to accommodate the aiming tendencies of the user. One having ordinary skill in the art would have found it obvious to plastically deform the hosel, as taught by Currie et al, in order to accommodate the user’s aiming tendencies.” Office Action, dated 09/06/2006, page 2 lines 19-23. However, Currie does not teach a hosel stem to be capable of being rotated with respect to the putter head at a region where the hosel stem interfaces with the putter head.

As shown in FIG. 16, Currie teaches “the tenth step is to impart the lie angle bend into the hosel 102. This is done by rotating the bending tool 600 on the bottom of the putter’s shaft so that the hosel 102 may be bent to an angle so that the angle of the putter’s shaft 118 matches the angle of the angular gauge bar 70.” *Also see* FIGs. 17 and 19 of Currie. That is, Currie does not teach a hosel stem to be capable of being rotated with respect to the putter head at a region where the hosel stem interfaces with the putter head but rather rotating a hosel at a region in the middle of the leg portion.

Therefore, new independent claim 31 is allowable for at least these reasons.

D. Remarks Directed to Claims 32-36

Claims 32-36 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent claim 31. Dependent claims must be construed to include all of the limitations of the claims from which they depend, as required by 37 C.F.R. 1.75(c) and M.P.E.P. 608.01(n). As argued above, none of the cited references, Hamburger, Currie, Johnson, AAPA, Jackson, Chuzo, or any combination teach, disclose, or suggest independent claim 31. Accordingly, Hamburger, Currie, Johnson, AAPA,

Jackson, Chuzo, or any combination thereof does not anticipated or rendered obvious claims 32-36 for at least the same reasons as listed earlier for claim 31. Accordingly, claims 32-36 should also be allowed for at least those same reasons.

Furthermore, claims 32 and 35 require, in part, the first angle is approximately eighty-eight degrees. None of the cited references, Hamburger, Currie, Johnson, AAPA, Jackson, Chuzo, or any combination thereof, teach, disclose, or suggest the first angle is approximately eighty-eight degrees. Applicant submits that claims 32 and 35 are also allowable for this additional reason.

Claim 33 requires, in part, the shaft defines a second axis and the hosel stem is capable of being rotated towards the heel and with respect to the putter head at a region where the hosel stem interfaces with the putter head such that an angle between the hosel stem and the second axis does not change and remains less than one-hundred and eighty degrees and greater than zero degrees. None of the cited references, Hamburger, Currie, Johnson, AAPA, Jackson, Chuzo, or any combination thereof, teach, disclose, or suggest this element. As shown in FIG. 16 of Currie, Currie teaches the hosel stem being rotated such that the angle between the hosel stem and the second axis changes. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 33 is also allowable for this additional reason.

Claim 36 requires, in part, the hosel boss blocks viewing of an entirety of the hosel stem when the putter head is oriented so that the first axis is substantially parallel to the playing surface and viewed from directly above the putter head, and the hosel stem is capable of being rotated towards the heel and with respect to the putter head at a region where the hosel stem interfaces with the putter head such that the hosel boss continues to block viewing of the entirety

of the hosel stem when the putter head is oriented so that the first axis is substantially parallel to the playing surface and viewed from directly above the putter head. None of the cited references, Hamburger, Currie, Johnson, AAPA, Jackson, Chuzo, or any combination thereof, teach, disclose, or suggest these elements. Applicant submits that claim 36 is also allowable for this additional reason.

E. Remarks Directed to Claims 37

New independent claim 37 requires “providing the golf putter comprising: ... a leg portion ... having a predetermined angle towards the toe with respect to a line substantially perpendicular to the body axis; and a boss ... substantially concealing the leg portion at the predetermined angle when the club head body is oriented so that the body axis is substantially parallel to a playing surface and viewed from directly above ... and adjusting the predetermined angle to change the lie angle by deforming the leg portion towards the heel such that the leg angle remains constant and the leg portion remains substantially concealed by the boss when the club head body is oriented so that the body axis is substantially parallel to the playing surface and viewed from directly above the club head body.”

As discussed above, none of the cited references, Hamburger, Currie, Johnson, AAPA, Jackson, Chuzo, or any combination thereof teaches, discloses, or renders obvious providing the golf putter comprising a leg portion having a predetermined angle towards the toe with respect to a line substantially perpendicular to the body axis and a boss substantially concealing the leg portion. Moreover, none of the cited references or any combination thereof teach, disclose, or render obvious the step of adjusting the predetermined angle to change the lie angle by deforming the leg portion towards the heel such that the leg angle remains constant and the leg portion remains substantially concealed by the boss when the club head body is oriented so that

the body axis is substantially parallel to the playing surface and viewed from directly above the club head body.

Accordingly, Applicant submits none of the cited references teach, disclose, or suggest claim 37, and claim 37 is allowable.

F. Remarks Directed to Claims 38-42

Claims 38-42 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent claim 37. Dependent claims must be construed to include all of the limitations of the claims from which they depend, as required by 37 C.F.R. 1.75(c) and M.P.E.P. 608.01(n). As argued above, none of the cited references, Hamburger, Currie, Johnson, AAPA, Jackson, Chuzo, or any combination teach, disclose, or suggest independent claim 37. Accordingly, Hamburger, Currie, Johnson, AAPA, Jackson, Chuzo, or any combination thereof does not anticipated or rendered obvious claims 38-42 for at least the same reasons as listed earlier for claim 37. Accordingly, claims 38-42 should also be allowed for at least those same reasons.

Furthermore, claim 38 requires, in part, plastically deforming the leg portion towards the heel such that the leg angle remains constant and the leg portion remains substantially concealed by the boss when the club head body is oriented so that the body axis is substantially parallel to a playing surface and viewed from directly above the club head body, and rotating the leg portion with respect to the club head body at a region where the leg portion interfaces with the club head body. None of the cited references, Hamburger, Currie, Johnson, AAPA, Jackson, Chuzo, or any combination thereof, teach, disclose, or suggest these elements. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 38 is also allowable for this additional reason.

Claim 40 requires, in part, providing the leg portion with the predetermined angle of approximately one degree to six degrees towards the toe with respect to the line substantially perpendicular to the body axis. None of the cited references, Hamburger, Currie, Johnson, AAPA, Jackson, Chuzo, or any combination thereof, teach, disclose or this element. The Office Action states “it is obvious to have the hosel [at] any angle so long as the leg is concealed from the user’s view.” Office Action, dated 09/06/2006, page 5, lines 13-15. As discussed above, however, none of the references including Jackson teach a leg portion at the predetermined angle of approximately one degree to six degrees towards the toe with respect to a line substantially perpendicular to the body axis and substantially concealed by the boss. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 40 is also allowable for this additional reason.

Claim 41 requires, in part, providing the leg portion with the predetermined angle of substantially two degrees towards the toe with respect to the line substantially perpendicular to the body axis. As discussed above, none of the cited references teach, disclose, or suggest a leg portion at the predetermined angle of substantially two degrees towards the toe with respect to a line substantially perpendicular to the body axis and substantially concealed by the boss. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 41 is also allowable for this additional reason.

Claim 42 requires, in part, providing the golf putter further comprises providing the boss adjacent to the leg portion and concealing all of the leg portion at the predetermined angle when the club head body is oriented so that the body axis is substantially parallel to a playing surface and viewed from directly above the club head body and adjusting the predetermined angle comprises adjusting the predetermined angle to change the lie angle by deforming the leg portion towards the heel such that the leg angle remains constant and all of the leg portion remains concealed by the boss when the club head body is oriented so that the body

axis is substantially parallel to the playing surface and viewed from directly above the club head body. None of the cited references, Hamburger, Currie, Johnson, AAPA, Jackson, Chuzo, or any combination thereof, teach, disclose, or suggest these elements. Applicant submits that claim 42 is also allowable for this additional reason.

IV. Examiner Interview Summary

On March 5, 2006, Walter Opaska, an attorney for the Applicant, conducted an interview with Examiner Alvin Hunter. During this interview, Mr. Opaska explained an embodiment of the invention to Examiner Hunter. Mr. Opaska and Examiner Hunter also discussed the claims, as submitted on June 6, 2006, and potential new claims.

Applicant thanks Examiner Hunter for his time and help on this matter.

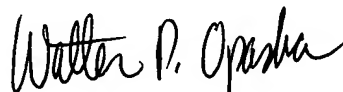
CONCLUSION

Applicant has made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. In light of the remarks set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all of the pending claims.

Applicant encloses all fees believed due in connection with this Response to Office Action. However, the Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge any additional required fees necessitated by this Response to Office Action, or credit any overpayment, to Account No. 02-4467.

If there are matters that can be discussed by telephone to further the prosecution of this application, Applicant invites Examiner Alvin Hunter to call the undersigned attorney at the Examiner's convenience.

Respectfully submitted,



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